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Strong private sector helps develop Afghanistan, Hanafi

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, said the other day that the country's development and prosperity depend on supporting and strengthening the private sector.

The deputy PM made the remarks during the inauguration ceremony of the New Khairkhwa Trade Market, Arg said in a statement Wednesday.

Hanafi expressed his satisfaction with the successful completion of the Trade Market, underscoring its inauguration as a pivotal milestone in advancing trade and investment in the country.

"It is an undeniable truth that the progress and prosperity of a nation are intrinsically linked to the expansion of trade and the empowerment of the private sector," he said, assuring that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering genuine economic and commercial development, with a particular emphasis on the private sector.

The Khairkhwa Trade Market spans an extensive area of approximately 9,361 square meters, comprising nine floors, with two levels designated exclusively for vehicle parking.

The construction of the market entailed an investment of approximately $34 million, financed by "Sun Sky Global Company" and 30% of the rental proceeds will be allocated to the Emirati administrations, while the remaining 70% will be distributed among the affected individuals and investors.The Khairkhwa market encompasses approximately 1,300 commercial units, constructed in accordance with modern architectural and infrastructural standards, thereby generating extensive direct and indirect employment opportunities for thousands of individuals.

The Kabul Times



IEA rejects Pakistan representative's claim over Daesh presence in Afghanistan

KABUL: The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has firmly rejected allegations made by Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN Security Council, Munir Akram, claiming that Afghanistan is a recruitment center for Daesh, Khorasan.

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, Abdul Qahar Balkhi said the other day in a statement on his X page that Munir Akram's statement is unfounded, accusing Pakistan of shifting focus from its internal issues.

"Since the return of the Islamic Emirate, significant efforts have been made to dismantle the hideouts of Daesh-K and other extremist groups within Afghanistan," the statement said, accusing Pakistan of using these allegations as a distraction from its instability.

The statement urged the international community to consider the progress made in Afghanistan and refrain from placing blame on the country.

The Kabul Times



IEA strongly condemns Kunduz attack

KABUL: The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has strongly condemned the attack in Kunduz province and offered condolences to the victims' families.

In a statement on his X page the other day, the deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, Mullah Hamdullah Fitrat offered condolences to the families of the victims of the tragic incident in Kunduz province, denouncing the attack as the work of enemies of Islam and humanity.

The attack carried out by an individual at a Kabul Bank branch, resulted in the martyrdom of five individuals, including civilians, Mujahidin, and bank guards, while seven others sustained injuries.

Responsibility for the assault on the Kabul Bank branch in Kunduz province has been claimed by ISIS militants. **The Kabul Times**



Contract signed to extract Bamyan's lead, zinc mines

KABUL: Mullah Hedayatullah Badri, the acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum, in an official ceremony, signed a contract worth 83.8 million Afghani for the extraction of Bamyan's lead and zinc mines with a domestic company, the ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

Based on the 5-year contract, the contracting company will be responsible for the exploration, extraction, and processing of lead and zinc mines in the country, the statement said.

During the extraction of the mines, hundreds of people will be provided with job opportunities.

On Monday, Mullah Hedayatullah Badri signed a contract worth $6.2 million for Kandahar marble mine extraction with a Turkish company.

After decades of war and instability and the establishment of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), lots of efforts have been made to the implementation of development projects and extractions of the country's mines, a move that has been appreciated by Afghans and increased hopes towards the country's self-sufficiency and development.

The Kabul Times



Government retakes thousands of acres of usurped land in provinces last month

KABUL: The Ministry of Justice of the Islamic Emirate said Wednesday that 16,578 acres of state land have been reclaimed from usurpers in four provinces in the past one month of the current solar year.

After assessment of the documents of tens of thousands of acres of land by the technical teams of the relevant commission, 16,578 acres of land have been identified as Emirati and reclaimed from the usurpers in Ghor, Kunduz, Uruzgan, and Nimruz provinces in the past one month of the current solar year, the ministry said.

A few days ago, 12,000 acres of state land were reclaimed from usurpers in Kandahar city and its 19 districts and handed over to the relevant government institutions.

The process of reviewing, approving, and returning state land continues in all provinces, and cases of thousands of acres of confiscated land are under investigation by the relevant commission.

The Kabul Times



Over 200 cadates join national army after training, ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of National Defense of the Islamic Emirate said Wednesday in a statement that 202 individuals received graduation certificates after completing a four-month professional course in the training center of the Joint Military Training Command of Hazrat Abdullah ibn Masoud (Kabul Military Training Center).

According to the statement, the military cadets have received training in the fields of D-30 gun maintenance, SPG-9, M24, M2, mortar, and border infantry courses.

Addressing the ceremony, the relevant officials highlighted the significance of artillery forces as the army's backbone, emphasizing that a potent artillery division is crucial for victory on the battlefield.

They stressed the importance of mastering modern technology and equipment in this domain.

Meanwhile, the new graduates reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding the nation's independence, territorial integrity, and Islamic principles.

The Joint Military Training Command of Hazrat Abdullah ibn Masoud (Kabul Military Training Center) plays a vital role in providing specialized training to Islamic army recruits across various sectors to bolster the country's armed forces.

The Kabul Times



270 development projects implemented in Paktia this year, official

GARDEZ: Shaikh Inamullah Salahuddin, the Deputy Governor of Paktia, in a press conference said Wednesday that 270 development projects worth 2.9 billion Afghani (some $36.5 million) have been implemented within the current solar year in various parts of the province.

The projects including reconstruction projects and humanitarian aids, have been funded by the Islamic Emirate and a number of international partners in different districts of the province, Shaikh Salahuddin said, assuring the government's commitment to advancing infrastructure, education, and agriculture projects across the country.

He said that during the implementation of 75 reconstruction projects thousands of people have been provided with job opportunities.

In terms of agriculture, over 215 greenhouses and 64 orchards have been established and 20,500 farmers received improved seeds, he added.

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Balanced trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan

Over the past several decades, exports from neighboring Pakistan to Afghanistan have increased, but contrary, exports from the country to its closest neighbor have not been eye-catching. Hundreds of Afghan goods-laden tankers are every year stranded along the border between the two countries, especially at Torkham Port and other ground ports of the country's shared border with Pakistan. They complained that their fresh fruits and other spoilable commodities were rotten due to the long blockage of the ports by Pakistani police officials. The Pakistani authorities frequently assure that they will address the challenges, but no effective step has so far been taken in this respect.

Frustrated with their Pak counterparts, the Afghan traders have time and again asked the Pakistani authorities to resolve the problems, but no tangible measures have been taken in this field.

Recent reports about the trade volume of Pakistan to Afghanistan revealed that the country's exports increased by 92 percent compared to the previous years. Key exports from the country to Pakistan are coal, cotton, and fresh fruits including onions, tomatoes, and pomegranates.

The report was released by the State Bank of Pakistan announcing that in the first six months of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the country's exports to Afghanistan have increased by 92% compared to the previous year with the trade value surpassing 504 million U.S. dollar from July to December of the current fiscal year.

Also, during the same period, Afghanistan has been reported to have an increase in exports of more than 125 percent to the neighboring country.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of the Islamic Emirate has reported that in the first ten months of the 1403 solar year, trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan amounted to 2.065 billion U.S. dollars.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan conducted a total trade of 2.065 billion U.S. dollars over the past ten months of 1403. Of this, 655 million U.S. dollars accounted for exports, while imports stood at 1.4 billion U.S. dollars," the ministry assured. But this is not enough. There is a need for a permanent solution to the problems to help the two countries grow their trade volumes and exports and imports at balanced levels. The Pakistani side should remove all barriers before the Afghan traders and deal with them the same as the Afghan side does.

The two nations with long shared borders can improve their economies through joint commercial cooperation besides struggling against all types of militants and counterinsurgent groups along the two countries.

As the season for fresh fruits arrives, the Pakistani side should not block the roads or strand hundreds of Afghan communities' laden trucks inside its territory or ask them for illegal payments.

The two sides should work for a balanced trade deal and remove all barriers including the increased taxes on transit goods entering the country from Karachi of Pakistan.

Efforts to isolate Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan fall short

In August 2021, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) executed a swift and unexpected military operation, seizing control of Kabul, Afghanistan's capital.

Since then, despite various obstacles and pressures from Western nations and other entities, efforts to isolate the IEA have not succeeded.



During the occupation, Western powers endeavored to establish an international political consensus against the IEA. However, initiatives like the Moscow Format meetings demonstrated that regional countries were increasingly supportive of Afghanistan's sovereignty.

Even after the withdrawal of foreign forces, the West struggled to maintain this consensus.Over the past three and a half years, Afghanistan has undergone significant transformations, culminating in the establishment of a strong central government free from foreign military presence.

This administration seeks engagement with all parties but remains steadfast in preserving national sovereignty, dignity, and independent decision-making.Bilateral relations between regional countries and the IEA, grounded in mutual interests, have been acknowledged by many. Through robust diplomatic efforts, the IEA has fostered closer ties among neighboring nations and strengthened its diplomatic and economic relationships with them.

Despite strained relations with Western countries and Pakistan, numerous nations—including China, Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, and even India—have expressed a desire for diplomatic engagement with the IEA.

Following the collapse of the U.S.-backed republic government, foreign diplomats have engaged with the IEA on various critical issues such as security, economy, humanitarian aid, regional connectivity, and more. Rather than adopting ineffective and detrimental approaches, it would be prudent for the West to acknowledge Afghanistan's current reality, proactively pursue mutual interests, exercise strategic patience, and recognize that changes may unfold over time.

Today's Emirate officials are more familiar with diplomacy and international affairs than they were in the 1990s.

They are experienced individuals who have established a centralized system and gleaned valuable lessons from the protracted and intricate Doha negotiations.There is no evident deficiency in the engagement between non-Western powers and Afghanistan's current government. From August 2021 to date, within the first three years of the Emirate's governance, IEA has conducted many diplomatic meetings, progressing strategically without hindrance.

Since the IEA's return to power in August 2021, Afghanistan has faced significant challenges, including economic decline, humanitarian crises, and social issues.

However, amidst these adversities, there have been notable positive developments that indicate resilience and progress in certain areas.

In the aftermath of the IEA's takeover, Afghanistan's economy experienced a sharp contraction, with the GDP declining by an estimated 20% in 2021. This downturn was primarily due to the abrupt cessation of international aid, which previously constituted a substantial portion of the national budget. Despite these challenges, the economy showed signs of stabilization in 2022 and 2023. The inflation rate, which had surged to 18.3% in 2021, decreased to 9.1% in 2022 and further to 4.9% in 2023. This decline in inflation can be attributed to improved monetary policies and a resurgence in domestic agricultural production.Furthermore, the Afghan government has made efforts to increase revenue generation through customs duties and taxation.In 2022, domestic revenue collection reached $1.2 billion, a 14% increase from the previous year.

This boost in revenue has enabled the government to fund essential services and infrastructure projects, contributing to economic resilience.

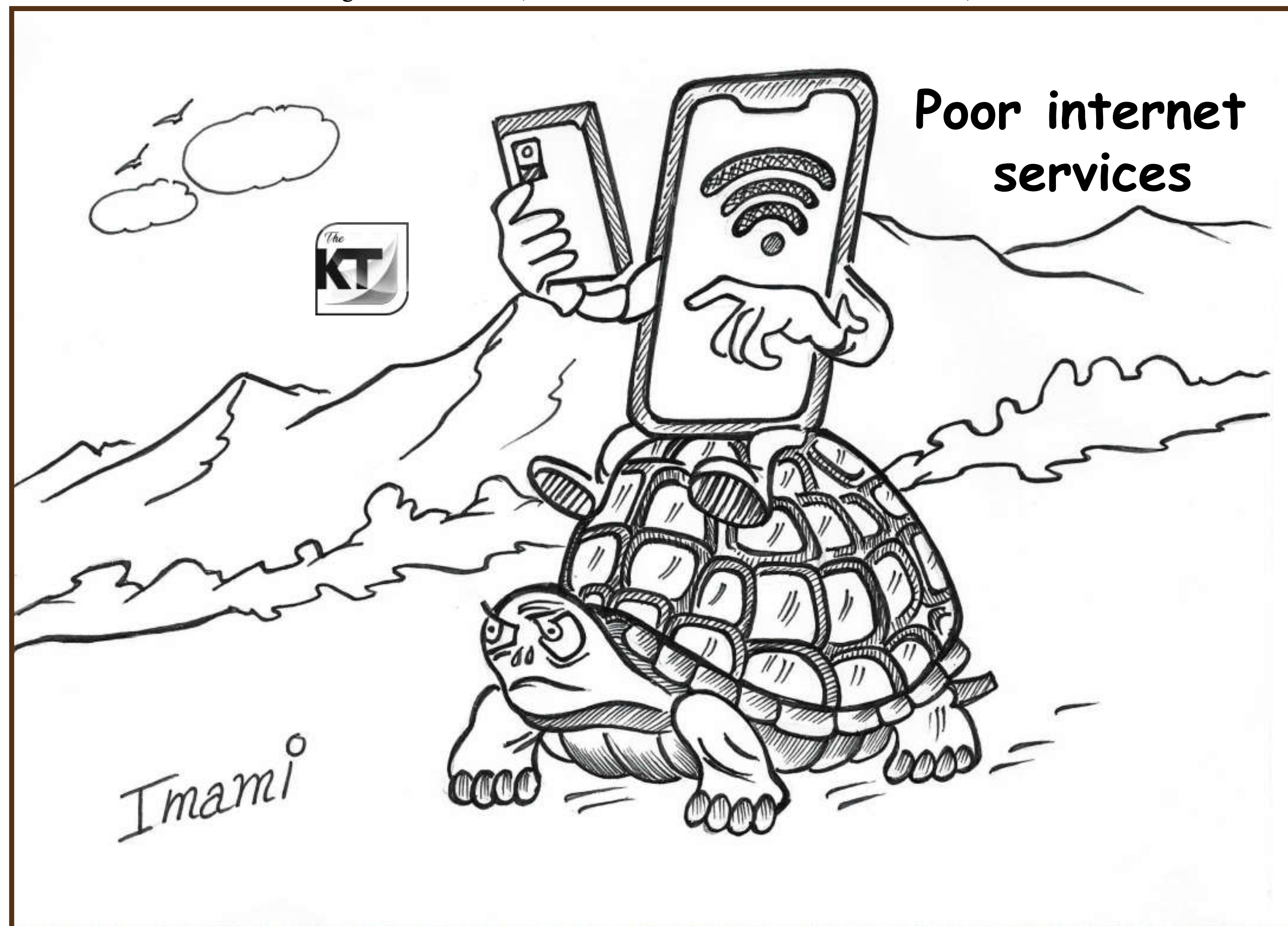
The international community has continued to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.Between August 2021 and September 2023, approximately $6.9 billion in aid was pledged by international donors. This aid has been instrumental in addressing immediate needs such as food security, healthcare, and education. Humanitarian organizations have reported that, despite operational challenges, they have been able to deliver aid to vulnerable populations across the country. Afghanistan has also seen progress in infrastructure development and regional connectivity projects. The government has prioritized the construction and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, and irrigation systems to facilitate trade and agriculture. Notably, the completion of the Lapis Lazuli Corridor has enhanced trade links between Afghanistan and countries in Central Asia and Europe, promoting economic integration.

Furthermore, Afghanistan's strategic location has garnered interest from neighboring countries seeking to invest in energy and transportation projects. The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project has seen renewed discussions, with stakeholders expressing commitment to its implementation. If realized, TAPI could provide significant transit revenues and energy supplies to Afghanistan.

The establishment of a centralized government has contributed to improved security in many parts of the country.

The reduction in active conflict has allowed for greater mobility and economic activity. The government has also taken steps to combat corruption and enhance administrative efficiency, which are critical for long-term development.

Abdul Hai Nasiri



New Khairkhwah Market: A landmark commercial project in the heart of Kabul

By: Hashmat Nasiri

New Khairkhwah Market is one of the most prominent commercial projects in the heart of Kabul, established to offer an enhanced shopping and business experience for Afghan citizens and entrepreneurs. Strategically located on Nader Pashtun Road, this state-of-the-art complex has rapidly emerged as a vital commercial hub within the capital.



This commercial complex was built through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with an investment of approximately $34 million on an area of over 9,361 square meters.

The complex comprises approximately 1,300 retail outlets and offices, a parking facility with a capacity for 1,800 vehicles, a mosque accommodating up to 1,800 worshippers, a restaurant, green spaces, and dedicated recreational and sports areas.

The structure, spanning nine floors, designates two levels for parking, while the remaining seven floors accommodate offices and retail spaces.

The construction of this complex began after the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate in Kabul and was completed after nearly three years.

According to a decision by the Cabinet of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the project will remain under private sector ownership for 30 years before being transferred to the government.

On February 11, 2025, the New Khairkhwah Market was officially inaugurated in a prestigious ceremony attended by senior officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, cabinet members, high-ranking private-sector representatives, national entrepreneurs, investors, and representatives from various organizations.

During the inauguration, officials underscored the project's significance as a paragon of effective collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Islamic Emirate officials reaffirmed that sustainable economic growth and national development are intrinsically linked to the progress and expansion of the private sector. They emphasized the Emirate's unwavering commitment to fostering an investment-friendly environment by providing facilitations and incentives that stimulate commercial activities.

Senior figures from the private sector, along with national investors and business leaders, expressed their appreciation for the Islamic Emirate's support in cultivating a more favorable investment climate.

They underscored their commitment to further investments and the implementation of similar commercial projects in Kabul and other provinces.

Several high-ranking officials, including Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs, Mawlavi Abdul Manan Omari, Acting Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, and Dr. Mullah Abdul Wasi Khadem, Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister's Office, delivered addresses, reiterating that private-sector growth remains a cornerstone of national economic progress. They further emphasized the government's steadfast commitment to supporting business development and foreign and domestic investments in Afghanistan.

Officials highlighted that the successful completion of this project serves as a benchmark for constructive cooperation between the public and private sectors, demonstrating that strategic partnerships can yield substantial and tangible economic benefits.

In addition, they noted that priority has been granted to shopkeepers and entrepreneurs who previously suffered financial losses due to fire incidents, ensuring their reintegration into the commercial landscape.

According to officials, the New Khairkhwah Market is a major project that has created numerous job and economic opportunities for Afghan citizens.

The successful execution of such large-scale projects reinforces Afghanistan's emergence as an attractive destination for investment and business activities.

In closing, officials expressed their profound gratitude to all individuals and organizations involved in the execution of this pivotal project.

They further called upon Afghan traders and investors to seize emerging opportunities, contribute to national development, and play an instrumental role in Afghanistan's economic resurgence.With its contemporary architectural design, adherence to international construction standards, and state-of-the-art facilities, New Khairkhwah Market is poised to become one of Kabul's premier commercial and shopping destinations, offering an unparalleled experience for businesses and visitors alike.

Current U.S. hegemonic policies and their impact on international politics

Part III

Trump, through the implementation of strict immigration policies—including the ban on the entry of nationals from certain Muslim-majority countries, the construction of a border wall with Mexico, and the revocation of immigration and scholarship programs—sought greater control over migration to the United States. While these policies aimed to enhance domestic security, they also faced severe domestic and international criticism, affecting the country's image as a welcoming nation for immigrants.According to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, member states are obligated to support refugees and refrain from returning them to countries where they may be at risk.

Trump's immigration policies, particularly the ban on certain Muslim-majority countries, can be considered a violation of these conventions and the United States' international commitments.

Furthermore, Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that every individual has the right to leave their country and seek refuge in another.

Trump's strict policies on refugee admissions can be seen as a violation of these fundamental rights, which has alarmed many American politicians.One example of Trump's expansionist policies was his withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal.

Political analysts, particularly officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, deemed this action to be in violation of legal, ethical, and diplomatic principles. According to Articles 26 and 36 of the JCPOA, any reinstatement or imposition of new sanctions against Iran by the United States would constitute a breach of its commitments. Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA and the reimposition of economic sanctions on Iran not only violated these provisions but also breached the principles of honoring commitments and respecting international agreements.According to Article 25 of the United Nations Charter, all member states are obliged to implement the decisions of the UN Security Council.

The JCPOA was endorsed by Security Council Resolution 2231, and the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the agreement constitutes a violation of this resolution.

Trump emphasized strengthening America's military power, increasing the country's defense budget during both his previous presidency and his ongoing term.

He believed that the U.S. military should be strong enough to protect national interests and counter international threats.

While this approach reinforced the United States' global military dominance, it also sparked concerns regarding increased military and arms competition.

According to Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, all members are required to refrain from threats or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of other countries.

Trump's military threats against countries like Iran and North Korea could be considered violations of this fundamental principle of the UN Charter. Furthermore, the Security Council's resolutions emphasize arms reduction and the promotion of international security.

The escalation of military threats and increased military budgets could intensify arms races and destabilize various regions, contradicting these resolutions.Trump's expansionist policies, with a focus on national interests, economic resilience, and military reinforcement, have had extensive impacts on the international system.

While these policies have, to some extent, strengthened America's power and influence on the global stage, they have also led to heightened tensions, increased international distrust, and reduced global cooperation.

Trump's policies indicate a fundamental shift in America's approach to global issues, and their effects continue to be observed in international politics.From the perspective of international law, Trump's expansionist policies have involved multiple violations and significant conflicts. The imposition of pressures and sanctions, severe economic sanctions, cuts in humanitarian aid, strict immigration policies, and military threats are all examples of these violations and conflicts. These policies have not only harmed America's domestic interests but have also inflicted serious damage on the international system and global cooperation. Ultimately, a critique of Trump's policies from an international legal perspective highlights the need for a review and revision of these policies to preserve international peace and security and uphold human rights.



Firooz Ahmad Ebrahimi

Afghanistan-China relations and the strategic role of the Wakhan Corridor

Afghanistan and China share a historically significant relationship, with economic and strategic ties strengthening over recent years.

One of the most critical developments in this partnership is the Wakhan Corridor, a narrow strip of land in northeastern Afghanistan that serves as a potential gateway for enhanced trade and connectivity between the two nations.

The Strategic Importance of the Wakhan Corridor: The Wakhan Corridor is a remote and rugged region linking Afghanistan's Badakhshan province to China's Xinjiang province.

Historically, this corridor was part of the ancient Silk Road, facilitating trade between Central and south Asia.

Today, it holds immense strategic and economic potential, offering Afghanistan a vital route for exporting goods to China and accessing broader regional markets.

China has shown interest in developing infrastructure along the corridor, which could integrate Afghanistan into China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

This integration would provide Afghanistan with direct access to Chinese markets, boosting economic opportunities and enhancing trade ties between the two countries.

Economic and Trade Relations: Afghanistan and China have significantly expanded trade in recent years.

With China lifting tariffs on Afghan exports and actively investing in Afghan resources, trade volume has seen a steady rise.

According to reports, Afghanistan's exports to China have reached nearly $90 million annually, with pine nuts being a major export commodity.



The establishment of trade routes through the Wakhan Corridor could further increase exports, facilitating the movement of Afghan agricultural and mineral products to China.

In return, Afghanistan could benefit from increased imports of Chinese goods, technology, and infrastructure support, strengthening its economic foundation.

Security and Development Challenges: Despite its potential, the development of the Wakhan Corridor faces challenges, primarily security concerns and the need for infrastructure investment.

The region's mountainous terrain and harsh weather conditions make transportation difficult. Additionally, ensuring stability in the corridor remains a priority for both nations.

China has expressed willingness to assist Afghanistan in addressing these challenges by offering infrastructure development aid and security cooperation.

By improving road networks, border facilities, and trade mechanisms, both countries can maximize the benefits of this strategic route.

Future Prospects: The future of Afghanistan-China relations, particularly through the Wakhan Corridor, holds great promise.

Strengthening trade connectivity will not only boost Afghanistan's economy but also deepen diplomatic ties between the two nations.

As Afghanistan continues its journey toward economic self-sufficiency, its partnership with China could play a crucial role in regional development and stability.

In conclusion, the Wakhan Corridor represents a key opportunity for Afghanistan and China to enhance their economic and strategic relationship. With continued cooperation, investment, and security measures, this corridor can transform into a vital trade route, benefiting both nations and contributing to regional economic integration.

Abdul Rashid

Maternity, infant mortality on the rise in country's remote areas

The lack of midwives nationwide is the biggest problem facing mothers and infants, particularly in the country's remote areas.Despite spending millions of dollars to contain maternity mortality rates over the past nearly two decades, with the two consecutive so-called republic governments in tenure, nothing tangible had been made to decrease the mortality rates of mothers and infants. However, the related organs, particularly, the Ministry of Public Health are making efforts to increase the number of midwives in the country.

Low public awareness and weak healthcare services are also the main reasons behind the failure of women with certain illnesses including maternity problems to receive treatment professionally. According to reports from remote provinces of the country, the number of maternity and infant mortality has increased due to a lack of access to healthcare centers as their residential areas are far away from provincial or district centers. According to local media, in the country's southern region, the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee has reported in maternal and infant mortality rates due to the lack of female doctors, "The rate of maternal and infant mortality in Afghanistan, especially in remote areas, has increased rather than decreased due to the absence of doctors and weak healthcare services," the head of the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee.

The challenges related to maternal and infant mortality in Afghanistan's remote areas continue to pose serious concerns. Despite the efforts by national and international organizations, many rural regions still face a significant lack of female medical professionals and healthcare services. The remoteness of villages, coupled with poor infrastructure, makes it extremely difficult for pregnant women to reach healthcare centers in time for childbirth or emergencies. As a result, the mortality rate among mothers and newborns remains alarmingly high. Healthcare officials have emphasized the need for training and deploying more midwives and female doctors, especially in areas with cultural restrictions that prevent women from accessing male doctors. Additionally, community-based healthcare programs and mobile clinics could help bridge the gap in providing essential services to these underserved areas.

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USD	GBP	INR	PKR	EUR	IRR	AED
01	01	1000	1000	01	1000	01
AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN
73.20	91.13	843	252	75.88	01.33	19.93



Afghanistan's AM Ghazanfar ruled out of ICC Champions Trophy

Afghanistan's rising spin-bowling talent, AM Ghazanfar, has been ruled out of the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy due to a serious injury. The young cricketer sustained a fracture in the L4 vertebra, specifically in the left pars interarticularis, during Afghanistan's recent tour of Zimbabwe.



As a result, he will be sidelined for a minimum of four months and will undergo medical treatment and rehabilitation during this period.

Ghazanfar's absence is a major setback for the Afghan team, as he has been a promising addition to their spin attack. His performances have drawn attention in the international cricketing arena, and his injury comes at a crucial time when Afghanistan is preparing for the highly competitive Champions Trophy.

In response to Ghazanfar's unavailability, Afghanistan's management has decided to promote Nangyal Kharoti from the reserves to the main squad for the tournament. Kharoti, a talented young spinner, has shown potential in domestic and international cricket, and this opportunity will allow him to prove himself on the big stage.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan will also continue to miss the services of star spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman in One Day Internationals (ODIs). Mujeeb remains on the sidelines as he recovers from his injury, and his return will only be confirmed once he has fully regained match fitness.

With two key spinners unavailable, Afghanistan faces a challenge in maintaining its bowling strength in the Champions Trophy.

However, the inclusion of Nangyal Kharoti provides the team with another spin option as they aim to make an impact in the tournament. The Afghan team and its fans will be hoping for a speedy recovery for both Ghazanfar and Mujeeb as they look ahead to future competitions.

The Kabul Times

Afghan national taekwondo team heads to Pakistan for Open Asian Championships

A 15-member squad of Afghanistan's national taekwondo team has traveled to Islamabad, Pakistan, to participate



in the 7th Open Asian Taekwondo Championships.

The competition, hosted by Pakistan, is scheduled to take place from February 14 to February 20 in Islamabad.

The event will feature two categories: Kyorugi (sparring) and Poomsae (forms).

The Kyorugi matches will include both junior and senior athletes, while the Poomsae section will be limited to junior age categories.

Athletes from over 20 countries are expected to participate in the competition.

The G2-ranked tournament is considered one of the most significant events in Asian taekwondo, following the Asian Championships.

The top-performing athletes from this event will qualify for international taekwondo championships, further enhancing their chances of competing at a global level.

Afghanistan's participation in this prestigious tournament highlights the country's commitment to developing its taekwondo athletes and providing them with opportunities to compete against top contenders from across Asia.

The Kabul Times

Real Madrid stages dramatic comeback to defeat Manchester City in UEFA Champions League playoff

In a thrilling UEFA Champions League playoff match, Real Madrid pulled off a stunning comeback to defeat Manchester City 3-2, thanks to late goals from Brahim Díaz and Jude Bellingham.

The match was an intense battle between two of Europe's football powerhouses. Manchester City took control early, displaying their attacking prowess and maintaining a 2-1 lead until the 86th minute. With time running out, it seemed like City would secure a crucial victory, but Real Madrid once again proved why they are one of the most dominant teams in European football.

In the final moments of the match, Brahim Díaz delivered a crucial goal to bring Real Madrid level. Just as extra time seemed inevitable, Jude Bellingham stepped up with a brilliant finish, securing a 3-2 victory for the Spanish giants. The last-minute turnaround stunned Manchester City and delighted Real Madrid fans, reinforcing the club's reputation for producing remarkable comebacks on the biggest stage.

This victory is a testament to Real Madrid's resilience and determination, as they continue their pursuit of another



UEFA Champions League title. With this dramatic win, they have strengthened their position in the competition, keeping their championship ambitions alive. Meanwhile, Manchester City, despite their strong performance, will have to regroup and refocus for the remainder of their European campaign. As the tournament progresses, Real Madrid's ability to thrive under pressure will be a key factor in their success. This match will be remembered as yet another classic Champions League encounter, showcasing the unpredictability and excitement that makes the competition one of the most thrilling in world football.

The Kabul Times

Mujahid confirms new appointments in government institutions

KABUL: The spokesperson for the Islamic Emirate, Zabihullah Mujahid, said Wednesday on his X account that based on the degree of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate Shaikh Hebatullah Akhundzada, new appointments have been made in some government administrations.

Mujahid said that based on the degree, Dr. Lutfullah Khairkhwa, who previously served as Deputy Minister of Higher Education, has been designated as the Supervisory Director of Da Afghanistan Bank and Shaikh Zia-ur-Rahman Aryoubi, the former Deputy Minister of Planning and Policy at the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, has been appointed as the new Deputy Minister of Higher Education.

According to him, Mawlavi Obaidullah Aminzada, the former Governor of Takhar, has been appointed as the Deputy Minister of Social Affairs at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and Mawlavi Samiullah Hizbullah, who previously



served as the Police Chief of Kandahar, has been appointed as the new Governor of Takhar.Also, Shaikh Abdul Rahman Qanet, the former Director of Supervision at Da Afghanistan Bank, has been named as the Deputy Minister of Planning and Policy at the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum.Furthermore, Mawlavi Abdul Ahad Talib, the former Governor of Helmand, has been appointed as the new Chief of Police for Kandahar Province.Changes in Emirati institutions' leadership bring reforms and transparency

The Kabul Times

North Korea condemns Trump's Gaza takeover plan as 'slaughter, robbery'

North Korean state media has accused the US of "slaughter and robbery" over President Donald Trump's proposed plan



to occupy the Gaza Strip and expel its population of more than two million Palestinians.

"The world is now boiling like a porridge pot over the US' bombshell declaration," the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a commentary published on Wednesday, in which Trump was not explicitly named.

KCNA also called the US a "ferocious robber" over the Trump administration's calls to take over the Panama Canal and Greenland, as well as its decision to rename the "Gulf of Mexico" the "Gulf of America".

"The US should awaken from its anachronistic daydream and stop at once the act of encroaching upon the dignity and sovereignty of other countries and nations," KCNA said.

North Korea has been an outspoken critic of the situation in Gaza, condemning Israel for its "ruthless" massacre of Palestinians and calling the US an "accomplice" to its crimes.

In an interview with Fox News on Monday, Trump confirmed that his proposal for the mass displacement of more than two million people from Gaza would not include a right for Palestinians to return to their land.

In that interview, Trump also reiterated his desire to "own" the war-ravaged Palestinian territory, which he has said he will transform into the "Riviera of the Middle East".Trump has also pressured Egypt and Jordan to take in Gaza's population after his planned eviction, a proposal both countries have firmly rejected.

Trump's assertion that he is seeking the permanent displacement of Gaza's population contradicts recent comments by his aides, who previously presented the plan as a rebuilding effort that would allow residents to eventually return.It is yet to be seen how the sometimes rocky, occasionally warm, relationship between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will play out during the US president's second term.

Trump said on February 7 that his administration "will have relations with North Korea", adding that he gets "along with them very well".In 2019, he also made history as he became the first sitting US president to step onto North Korean soil since a 1953 armistice brought a de facto end to the Korean War.

On Tuesday, North Korea again accused the US of posing a grave threat to its national security. It said its military forces are ready to take any action necessary after a US Navy fast-attack nuclear submarine docked in a port in the South Korean city of Busan.

North Korea's Ministry of Defence described the presence of the US nuclear submarine on the Korean Peninsula as a "clear expression of the US invariable hysteria for confrontation".

Aljazeera

Maternity, infant mortality on the rise in...

From P3

In recent years, some progress has been made through initiatives led by international aid organizations.

Mobile health teams have been deployed to certain regions, and efforts to train community midwives have been expanded.

However, these efforts are often hindered by security concerns and insufficient resources.

Moreover, the role of community leaders remains crucial. Religious scholars, tribal elders, and local leaders can help by spreading awareness about maternal and infant health. Educational campaigns focusing on nutrition, hygiene, and early pregnancy care can empower women to take proactive measures for their health. Ensuring that healthcare services are culturally sensitive and easily accessible will also encourage more women to seek timely medical assistance.

Addressing maternal and infant mortality requires a holistic approach, combining improved healthcare infrastructure, education, and community support. Only through coordinated efforts at all levels can Afghanistan hope to reduce its mortality rates and provide better health outcomes for mothers and their children.

Meanwhile, TOLOnews TV channel quoted Zarak Zirak, head of public health in Ghazni, to say that more than 50,000 births have been recorded in the province this year.

"In the past, due to security problems, many mothers could not visit healthcare centers for natural childbirth. In my view, the number of births has increased by 10 to 15 percent compared to the past," he said.

However, residents of remote areas in Ghazni still complain about the lack of access to healthcare centers and the challenges they face.

"We request that similar services be provided in remote areas, just as they are available here. We have come from very far, facing numerous difficulties," said Latif, a patient in Ghazni.

"Patients who need surgery have no access to medical services. We travel two to two and a half hours through



snow and ice to bring them to treatment centers, but in many cases, by the time we get them here, they have already lost their lives," said Noor Agha, a resident of Zankhan district in Ghazni.The head of the Norwegian Committee for Afghanistan in the southern region emphasized that the organization is striving to reduce maternal and infant mortality in Afghanistan by 70 percent by 2030.

Likewise, this is the responsibility of the tribal elders, religious scholars, and community chieftains as well as local officials to conduct awareness among the people, particularly the women to help them become aware of their health issues and refer them to the related healthcare centers for urgent treatment.

Dr. Bushra Parnian

Philippine investigators file criminal complaints against VP over assassination threats

Philippine government investigators filed criminal complaints, including sedition, against Vice President Sara Duterte on Wednesday over her public threat to have the president assassinated if she herself was killed in an escalating political storm.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Jaime Santiago said at a news conference that the complaints of inciting to sedition and grave threats against Duterte were filed at the Department of Justice, which would decide whether to dismiss the complaints outright or elevate them to court.

The vice president, a lawyer and daughter of former President Rodrigo Duterte, reacted briefly by saying that she had expected the move by the NBI. She has accused her political rivals of taking steps to prevent her from seeking the presidency when President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s term ends in 2028.

The vice president's father, whose presidential term ended in 2022, is facing legal troubles. The International Criminal Court has been investigating the widespread killings under a brutal anti-drug crackdown he oversaw while in office as a possible crime against humanity.

Sara Duterte ran as Marcos' vice presidential running mate in 2022.

Al-Arabiya